പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇക്കാര്യത്തെപ്പറ്റി ആക്ഷേപം കൊടുത്താൽ നിവൃത്തികിട്ടുമെന്ന കാര്യം അവർക്ക് അറിവും ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കയില്ല.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—My assurance can be taken.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ.—ആക്ഷേപം കിട്ടിയിട്ടില്ല എന്നല്ലാതെ ആക്ഷേപം ഇല്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടല്ല. വളരെ ആക്ഷേപം ഉണ്ട്.

എല്ലാസ്ഥലവും പരിശോധിച്ചെന്നു വരികയില്ല. റെവന്യൂ മെംബർ പ്രമേയം സ്വീകരിക്കുവാൻ തയ്യാറില്ലെങ്കിൽ വോട്ടിനിടണമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. റസല്യൂഷന്റെ മുമ്പിൽ 'താല്പര്യമായി' എന്നു ചേർക്കണം.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Which is the section, please?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Section 10. It is as clear as day-light.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—What is the prevalent custom in Madras?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—The very same practice in British. Absolutely no difference. The section there is 26.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The question may now be put to the vote, Sir.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I second it.

The resolution as amended by adding 'താല്പര്യമായി' *in the beginning was put and negatived.*

3. Housing of the Poor.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move the following resolution which stands against my name, *viz.*, "*That this Council recommends to the Government to help the housing of the poor by (a) granting loans on easy terms, (b) giving subsidies to organisations started on the lines of Public Utility Societies in England, (c) insisting on Municipal bodies undertaking the modern housing scheme for the benefit of the poor and (d) by insisting in respect of new extensions and Town Improvement Schemes to be guided by a Town Planning expert.*"

Sir, it is to be regretted that as yet no definite steps have now been taken by the Government or the Municipalities regarding the housing problem except that Government Servants are given loans to construct houses whenever they apply for it. Ernakulam, Mattancheri and Trichur are growing towns, and their population will increase enormously in the near future when the Harbour and the Railway developments are completed. Already there are swarms of beggars, vagrants and others who roam about the streets the whole day carrying with them infection of tuberculosis and other loathsome diseases and who are a source of great danger to public health. I under-

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

stand that a Poor House was started a few years back in Ernakulam, but the very fact that there are still large numbers of beggars roaming about in this town shows that the problem has not been earnestly tackled even in the premier Municipality of of the State. So far as Trichur is concerned, the local Council passed a resolution recommending the establishment of a beggar s house and the scheme has not as yet materialised. What should be done is either the Government itself should undertake the construction of Poor Houses on an adequate scale ; or insist on Municipalities undertaking them. If the Municipal funds are not sufficient for the purpose, Government may make a liberal contribution. The construction of Poor Houses can solve the problem of the Beggar nuisance in our Towns, and the sooner this problem is solved, the better it will be.

Then there is the housing problem of the working classes who have to pay rents beyond all proportion to their daily wages, and who, with all that, have to live in miserable and insanitary hovels, sometimes, two and three families in one room or house. These insanitary hovels should be pulled down; and the Government or the Municipality can arrange the construction of rows of small houses in sanitary surroundings and rent out each room or house to the working class families. This will relieve congestion, promote public health, and besides the money spent on such housing schemes would be a good investment. If the Government or the Municipalities are not prepared to under take such a scheme, they can at least aid private agencies such as housing societies. There are several such in England and, I am glad to note, also in important towns in British India. If Government help is assured, I am sure private agencies will be forthcoming as in Madras and Bombay. Housing Societies on a co-operative basis may be formed which will enable a tenant to become the owner of the House he lives in in the course of, say, a period of ten years.

Another matter which the Government should insist on is that the Municipalities in the State should be guided by some Town Planning Expert, whenever new extensions are made. This is especially necessary in the case of Ernakulam. Of course, the suggestions indicated in my resolution can be acted upon only gradually; and my object in tabling it was that, in view of the Harbour development, we have reached a stage in the history of Town development in the State, when the Government should evolve a general line of policy with regard to future improvements and extensions upon which will depend the general health of our urban population.

Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar.—I second the proposition, Sir.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—The resolution as it stands runs:—'*That this Council recommends to the Government to help the housing of the poor by granting loans on easy terms, etc.*'' That at least does not appear to my mind as advisable that loans are to be granted by the Government directly. That is a step which I do not approve of, and, therefore, I drop that clause to make my meaning clear. I would suggest or rather I would say that the other clauses are acceptable which imply all sorts of assistance to the poor in the matter of finding accommodation. For this one of the helps is the granting of loans. Therefore, my object in amending the resolution or deleting that clause is not to deprive the assistance by granting loans but only not to be directly advanced by the Government. On the other hand, I am anxious that this housing problem should be taken up not directly by the Government but by authorised associations or committees or municipalities as the case may be. I emphasise the second clause, namely, giving subsidies to organizations by Government. Apart from that, I consider such organisations the proper organisations to tackle with this problem. I do not know whether the Hon'ble Member will have any objection to delete that clause. I should be understood clearly that it is not an objection to the granting of loans but with regard to the agencies. So I suggest in that way the resolution may be altered.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—I accept the amendment.

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—Ever since the late War, one of the more important re-organisations that are taking place in European countries is the housing of the slums. After having spent their energies on International questions, now they have turned their eyes to internal development in the State. Another great problem that is to be tackled is the question of unemployment. As a result of this, the slum areas were brought to the notice of the Government, *i. e.*, the natural drain and the alleviation of the miseries of the unemployed people. So also in our own places we see so many unemployed labourers flocking to the cities to earn their living there without any house and without any help rendered by the general public. In European countries it is generally the public who take interest in the question of constructing houses, buildings, societies, etc. Amounts are advanced to these poor people which are repayable by instalments. Our State has not so much advanced and we have not the resources to advance. A great proportion of the revenue of the State is collected from the poor.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I had sent a resolution to this effect in view of the public begging and attendant demoralization and requesting the State to take early steps to arrive at some satisfactory solution. Unfortunately it was disallowed. I am

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

glad I got this opportunity of referring to that resolution. For the benefit of the poor, I strongly support this resolution.

It is very pitiable that professional beggars haunt individual houses especially in towns and there is also some danger in the practice, especially in Municipal areas. We have recently heard of burglaries and thefts in one or two prominent houses in Ernakulam. This is likely to be the direct result of beggars reconnoitring the houses during day time. These beggars can freely go to any house. There is also the danger of epidemics spreading through the medium of beggars. There is much to be said on this subject, though, for the time being, I do not propose to deal with the matter elaborately.

Mr. Wright has accepted the amendment and I support the resolution in the amended form.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I rise to support the resolution on two grounds. Governments, if they are true Governments, have to discharge the prime duty of looking after the people. There are only three needs which matters much:—House Food and Clothes. Everything else does not matter at all. If the Government cannot give ways and means by which their people can be well housed, well fed and well clothed, then I say they have no right to exist in this world at all. I here wish to bring to the notice of the Cochin Government the fact that you are to-day not at all discharging the functions of a Government, but you are simply acting as a bureaucrat doing the service as best as you can. A part of the society is being fed at the cost of the greater part. That is to say, the Government of Cochin to-day, consisting on one side of all the officers, are fed by the great number of the people of the land contributing taxes and giving them pay. They are only anxious to get their pay, do their duties that are thrown upon them and let go everything else in their own way. Whether A starves, B gets sufficient clothing, whether C is ejecting another causing disturbance, you have absolutely no concern of any kind. That which we insist on must be done. That is the attitude of the bureaucracy. Have you got a housing problem? Have you got a scheme to increase the income of the people? Have you got a better clothing scheme? Then what for are you existing? To draw pay and put it in your own pocket and give it to your dependents. That is not the function of a true Government. Every true Government's duties are not the mere administration, collecting revenue or maintaining law and order, but their duties are to look after the interests of the people. Therefore, Sir, now you have got the chance of improving yourselves. Become a proper Government. Accept the chances, carry the advice home and try to mend yourselves to make yourselves helpful. We came to look after the interests

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

of your subordinates. Four years of labour has been taken by this Council to open your own eyes to look after the interests of your own subordinates and now you come forward to give Rs. 10 after hammering that into your heads in this Council. Therefore, I say accept this proposition as a sensible and true Government and carry it out and better the condition of the people. Accept it by both hands.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ.—ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ പിന്താങ്ങുവാൻ എനിക്കുള്ള കാരണം ഒന്നുവേറെയാണ്. വലിയ മാളികകൾ ഉള്ളിലാതെ ഒഴിഞ്ഞുകിടക്കുകയും അതിനടുത്തായി വീടില്ലാത്തവർ കിടന്ന് കഷ്ടപ്പെടുകയും ചെയ്യുമ്പോൾ അവരും ബുദ്ധിശക്തി, ഭാവനാശക്തി ഉള്ളവരായതുകൊണ്ട് ഇതിന്റെ എല്ലാംകാരണം കുറച്ചൊക്കെ എങ്കിലും ആലോചിച്ചു നോക്കാതിരിക്കുകയില്ല. വീടില്ലാത്ത വലിയ ഒരു ഭ്രഷ്ടപക്ഷം ജനങ്ങൾ അവർ വീടില്ലാതെകിടന്ന് കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നതിന്റെ കാരണത്തെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിച്ചാൽ ആ ആലോചനയുടെ ഉള്ളിൽ വലിയ വലിയ സിംഹാസനങ്ങളെ വിറപ്പിക്കുന്ന ശക്തി, ഗവമ്മെണ്ടുകളെ തകർക്കുന്ന ശക്തി, ഭ്രഷ്ടലോകത്തെത്തന്നെ ഇളക്കിമറിക്കുന്ന ശക്തി, അന്തർഭവിച്ചിരിക്കും. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള ശക്തിയുടെ വ്യാപാരം നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിലും വരാതിരിക്കുവാൻവേണ്ടി, ഗവമ്മേണ്ടും ജനങ്ങളും കൂടി ആലോചിച്ച് സാധുക്കളുടെപേരിൽ കുറെ ദയവുകാണിക്കുവാൻവേണ്ടി ഈ നിശ്ചയത്തെ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു അംഗീകരിക്കുകയും, അംഗീകരിച്ചാൽ പോരാ, അതിനെ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുവാൻ ശ്രമിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യണമെന്ന് ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I shall just place the position of the Government in regard to this question. It is not clear from the resolution whether it has reference to the housing of all the poor of the State or the housing of the poor in Municipalities and towns. I hardly think that the scope of the resolution extends throughout the State. I believe the Hon'ble Mover is concentrating his attention to the housing of the poor in towns. It is a right move that as early as possible steps be taken to provide proper house accommodation in overcrowded towns and Municipalities, which are fast growing on account of the success and development of the Cochin Harbour Scheme. Well, the question of the housing of the poor is to be associated with improvement of slum areas. So I think the principle underlying the resolution is either the prevention of slums from growing and improving the slums already existing in towns. I think it is a most essential proposition which all civilised Governments would accept and I do not think the Government will view the improvements proposed to be effected with disfavour, namely, the object and aim of the resolution.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

But anything like advancing money to the poor of the towns and asking them to build houses is rather a proposition which I do not know whether the Government can accept. Why? It is a sure way of depleting the Treasury.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—That has been deleted.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—In my own view the primary solution of the problem is the want of having clear building regulations in force in towns and Municipalities. Slums spring up in towns and Municipalities from non-existence of well-conceived building regulations, and I really believe, if regulations based on sanitary principles for construction of houses in Municipalities and towns are brought into existence, this evil would be prevented to a great degree. It is not only the introduction of rules and regulations but what is more important is the satisfactory guarantee that those regulations will be carried out without any relaxation at all. Rules for the prevention of overcrowding in houses are also needed. These are problems which the Municipalities have to take up and introduce in their respective jurisdiction at an early date and I suppose Government would be moving into the matter very soon. It is high time that in Ernakulam and Trichur and other Municipalities and towns like Kunnamkulam which are springing up and increasing in population there should be well-organised rules for the construction of houses, for the laying down of roads. Government have in the past taken every occasion to obtain expert advice wherever and whenever necessary and I believe it is engaging the attention of the Government. You must make your own arrangements for removing slum areas. This is a primary duty of the Municipality.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—To remove slum areas private agencies would be forthcoming if real Government support is given. Then what about the ill-looking sheds on the front of the foreshore? The Municipality has no regulations. This I suppose is part of the result of the Town Planning Scheme.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—It is the fault of the Municipality.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—What is the Government for? Are they not regulating them or simply keeping guide?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—It is the duty of the Municipality. I believe it is due to the non-existence of rules.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Building regulations are pending final orders.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—For development Municipalities are responsible. I entirely endorse with all the views of the representative of the Government in this matter, but I may tell you plainly—to this House—that no Municipality in Cochin State

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

is in a position to undertake this work unless substantial help is forthcoming from the Government. Not small help but substantial helps from the Government. Municipalities with great difficulties can make both ends meet and our people who are living within the Municipal areas are not in a position to bear additional burden of taxation for the time being. People who come to the Municipal areas and who seem to be living above the ground—there seems to be an impression that they are having a decent life—though they are living in palaces, they are leading a miserable life than those who live in wretched houses. People living in cottages enjoy more happiness when put in comparison with these so-called middle-class people. What I tell the Government and this House is if you go with the hope that Government alone can do and will do that they are supposing a thing that shall not be done. I can only speak for the Trichur Municipality. We will not be in a position to do anything unless the Government comes forward with substantial contributions. What is substantial help? Not Rs. 5,000, not Rs. 10,000 but big loans with or without interest to be repaid in 25 or 50 instalments. These are the schemes.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Government is giving whatever is possible.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I know all the facts and figures. Yes. When we were asking Rs. 18,000 you were cutting it down to Rs. 5,000. That is why I said you were not able to meet my arguments.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—No scheme has yet come forward.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Perhaps money is flowing and the policy of Government is "Come and take as much as you want".

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Now you are getting Rs. 5,000.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—And I pointed to you that it is for services rendered to you and not charity.

Now let there not be any misunderstanding on the point that the Municipality will do everything that you desire. It is a physical impossibility. If the Government is prepared to come forward and help by giving large loans with interest or without interest, as the British Government is doing by advancing big loans to be given back in 25 years' time, we will be able to do the necessary improvements.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Does the Government accept the proposition?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Government accept the principle.

Secretary to the Council.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—I press the motion.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—I move that the question be put

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I second it.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Well, I am always viewing things from the practical side. Suggest some ways and means as to how the resolution is to be carried out. At least some indications from my Hon'ble colleagues will help the Government. Certainly we are as much interested. There is no difference of opinion.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Well accept the proposition and then come.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—That is putting the cart before the horse.

Deputy President.—The question before the House is that "*this Council recommends to the Government to help the housing of the poor by (a) giving subsidies to organisations started on the lines of Public Utility Societies in England, (b) insisting on all Municipal bodies undertaking the modern housing schemes for the benefit of the poor and by (c) insisting in respect of new extensions and Town Improvement Schemes to be guided by some Town Planning Expert.*"

Question put and agreed to.

The House rose for the day at 5 p. m.

T. K. KRISHNA MENON,
Secretary to the Council.

APPENDIX.

Minutes of the meeting of the Standing Finance Committee of the Cochin Legislative Council.

A meeting of the Committee was held at 4 p. m. in the Diwan's room, Huzur Secretariat, on Friday, the 7th of December 1928 (22nd Vrischigam 1104).

The following Members were present:—

1 M. R. Ry., A. K. Vengu Ayyar Avl.
2. ,, K. Krishna Pisharodi Avl.
3. A. B. Salem Esquire.
4. M. R. Ry., K. Ayyappan Avl.
5. ,, T. K. Krishna Menon Avl.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar said that, in the unavoidable absence of the Diwan, he was, by him, authorised to preside at this meeting.

The following three items were placed before the Committee for consideration:—

I. XIII—Huzur—Temporary Establishment—Rs. 1,750. (For the pay of the Special Officer and that of the typist-clerk for him).

II. XIII—Huzur—Office Expenses—Rs. 750. (For the purchase of four type-writing machines).

III. XXIII—A (2) Government contribution to Municipalities—Rs. 1,500. (For storing water in the Kokkalai fields at Trichur).

Messrs. A. B. Salem and K. Ayyappan said that they opposed the first item as they were not satisfied with the necessity of the appointment of the Special Officer. The other two items were consented to by them.

T. K. KRISHNA MENON,
Secretary to the Council.

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